

I said: No, I really don't think about the men and women who have served in the past because their history has been written. The people that I think about are the men and women whom I serve with every day because we are writing our history, and the things that we do and the things that we say on this floor have a huge impact not only on our constituents, but on our country and on the world.

So I want to thank my wife, Dana, and my family for helping me do this job on behalf of the people of the 19th District. Without Dana's support, I couldn't have done this. My two sons and their wives have been an integral part of this, and even my grandkids were out campaigning when we were running for Congress.

I also want to thank those men and women who have come through our congressional office, both here in D.C. and back in the district, who have worked so hard on behalf of our constituents, making sure that that veteran gets his check or making sure that that Social Security check that was lost was found, helping people get their loved ones back from a foreign country because of visa problems. All of those kinds of things are important.

So I want to thank the staff who have been so much a part of that, and I want to thank the people of the 19th District and my family, but I also want to thank my fellow colleagues whom I have served with.

Everybody here that I have come in contact with loves America. Now, what we do have is a difference of opinion from time to time on what it takes to make sure that America has the bright future that we all want it to have, and that is a healthy process.

I am excited for our President-elect and these new Members of Congress who will be sworn in in just a few weeks because they have a big task ahead of them. So as many of my constituents have prayed for me and this Congress in the past, Dana and I will be praying for them as they take our country forward.

Thank you again, and God bless you, and God bless the United States of America.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I again want to thank Representative NEUGEBAUER for his service to Texas and to our country. We wish him the best in his well-deserved retirement.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor my fellow Texas colleague and friend RANDY NEUGEBAUER.

RANDY has been serving the constituents of the 19th Congressional District of Texas since 2003. Prior to coming to Congress, he served on the Lubbock City Council and as Mayor Pro Tempore. He also worked in the private sector as a banker and a homebuilder.

In Congress, RANDY has worked hard to eliminate wasteful federal spending, curb federal overreach and create better agriculture policies. He has served on the Financial Services Committee, the Agriculture Committee, and the Science, Space and Technology Com-

mittee. He has also served as a Chairman of the Financial Services Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit, and as Vice-Chairman of the Agriculture Committee.

RANDY and I are similar in many ways. Growing up in Texas, we were both instilled with strong values of family, faith, hard work, and public service. We both went on to marry our high school sweethearts. We each have two sons and have been blessed with multiple grandchildren. And we both take pride in representing our respective universities where we are alumnus in Congress. Even though Texas Tech and Texas A&M have a strong rivalry, we have worked together for the good of all Texans.

RANDY will be missed in the halls of Congress. He took pride in serving the constituents of all 29 counties in West Texas that make up the 19th Congressional District. I commend him for his many years of public service to Texas and for our nation. It truly has been an honor to serve and work alongside RANDY. I wish him the best of luck on his retirement and want to thank him for friendship and guidance.

As I close, I ask everyone to continue praying for our country and for our military and first responder g who selflessly serve and sacrifice to protect us.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would remind Members that it is not in order to refer to occupants of the gallery.

REFLECTIONS OF A FRESHMAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) for 30 minutes.

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEUGEBAUER) for his service and that of his spouse and family, for they made my welcome to Congress so agreeable and so appropriate, and I have enjoyed my service with Mr. NEUGEBAUER on the House Financial Services Committee.

You know, when I am home, one of the most frequent questions I get is to describe the major changes that I have seen in Washington since my previous work on Capitol Hill and in the executive branch. And yes, now it has been more than 24 years since I served in the administration of George H. W. Bush from 1989–1993, 24 years and three two-term Presidents—two Democrats, one Republican. Anyone familiar with life inside the beltway would certainly see that the city's traffic has become unbearable, and the number of places to eat has really been improved in those 24 years.

But tonight I don't want to talk about the enrichment of life along The National Mall with new monuments to FDR and MLK and new visionary sites, such as the Native American Museum and now our African American Museum. Instead, it is not urbanization or nightlife that has happened that I noticed, that I talk about when I see my constituents, but it is really the changes I see in public policy as I wan-

der back like Rip Van Winkle 20 years later to our Nation's Capital.

The politics and productivity of the city are more stymied and less successful than in my experience in the executive branch, led by George H. W. Bush, or even in my service as a legislative aide on the Senate Banking Committee staff back during the days of the first term of President Reagan.

Tonight I would like to outline my thoughts on those biggest differences I have seen in our Federal Government. These include the size and complexity and the unmanageable nature of the administrative state, the growth and unreformed nature of our mandatory spending programs, the failure of the Congress to meet its most fundamental constitutional responsibilities, that is, the oversight of the executive and the timely and thoughtful appropriations governed by the Appropriations Clause of our Constitution.

□ 1945

At the end of this "Rip Van Winkle" overview, I will offer suggestions as to possible solutions to these challenges that we face in Washington. While I am a realist, I understand consensus is difficult in this city, and, while sensitive, my remarks tonight will appeal, in my view, to both Democrats and Republicans about how do we have an effective Federal Government, one that honors our constitutional limitations, the best intentions of our Founders, and demonstrates to the American people that their legislative and executive branches can work together for the long-term common good and the general welfare of this Nation.

Thomas Jefferson, author of the Declaration of Independence, does a splendid job in enumerating the significant grievances that the American colonists had against King George III. Among them, my favorite of the "Facts . . . submitted to a candid world": "He," the king, "has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of officers to harass our people, and eat out their substance."

When I am visiting with our fellow citizens in the seven counties of the Second Congressional District of Arkansas, our doctors and hospital administrators, people who own small businesses, community bankers, high school and elementary schoolteachers, university administrators, highway contractors, small-town mayors, inevitably the size, scope, and complexity of the paperwork, micromanagement, and intrusion of the administrative state dominates that conversation.

While other policy proposals from the tax and policy ideas to funding the need for our needed Federal programs, inevitably every conversation ultimately returns to how management and employees believe they are no longer focused on their missions to increase sales, produce profits, grow their business, educate kids, operate on patients, make loans to entrepreneurs and successful businesses, and help expand the American Dream.

Instead, they are stuck in a world of three-ring binders, CYA activities, and a morass of paperwork and documentation—all possibly well-intentioned, but the bottom line is they take people away from their core mission and core values, drive up costs, reduce availability of credit to consumers, drive up prices for consumers, and, in many ways, cause Americans to be cynical about their government.

In a 2015 article on New York City's broken bureaucracy, Phil Howard decried the red-tape jungle that doubles costs and postpones critical infrastructure projects in one of the greatest cities in the world. This is a fundamental issue today because President-elect Trump says we need to invest more in infrastructure. Look at the dollar per mile of road paved when you look at the costs added by the bureaucracy.

In 1931, the construction of The Empire State Building was completed in 410 days, 12 days ahead of schedule. Today, just raising the roadway of the Bayonne Bridge in New York, besides absurd requirements to survey historic buildings within a 2-mile radius of an existing bridge that touched no buildings, it required 47 permits from 19 different agencies and a 5,000-page Federal environmental assessment and a city environmental review before a permit could even be issued. After 5 years, the project was sued for inadequate environmental review. Now the \$1.3 billion project is not expected to be completed until 2017. We are talking about years, decades to raise the deck on the bridge that will increase traffic to New York Harbor that in no way endangers the environment or any other aspect.

Peggy Noonan has said that Washington is turning America into the paperwork nation at odds with the American character of inventors, builders, innovators, and pioneers.

I have a message for our President-elect. When you are involved in partnering with us in draining the swamp, it is a worthy goal, how about draining America's inbox and just leave our American people alone to innovate, employ people, and help grow this economy.

This is why the Founders struggled so mightily over the proper role of the Federal versus State prerogatives in designing our Constitution. It is the core of why they settled upon the enumerated powers in our Constitution and left those other powers not so designated to the Federal Government to our States or entrusted to the people. Over recent years, the administrative state has eroded that trust the people have to make their own good choices. It is critical that we restore this trust and allow our local and State governments to tackle social and economic challenges with our people close to the problems and create a commonsense approach.

So your old friend, Rip Van Winkle, here tonight has returned to the banks of the Potomac to see a great leviathan draped across the landscape. Called the

administrative state, this beast now reigns supreme, uncaring, tone deaf, and its tentacles dedicated to one-size-fits-all edicts, and, in many ways, unresponsive even to the will of the people's representatives in the United States House and Senate.

Phil Howard, who I referenced a few minutes ago, wrote two great books that I encourage everyone in our country to read: "The Death of Common Sense" and "The Rule of Nobody," which succinctly outline the failures of this system that has been built up, calcified over the years, with no one in the system really responsible for asking: What is the right thing to do?

Ultimately, then, no one is responsible for these failures of the administrative state.

Instead, administrative officials have come to Capitol Hill and rarely offer testimony of value that adds to the debate, that informs the decisionmaking. A typical example can be seen in the 6 years of review and critique of the post-recession banking measure called the Dodd-Frank Act. Former Committee on Financial Services chair here in the House, Barney Frank, and author of this bill, principal architect, said that many things in this final act weren't right and required modifications, but a standard response from the Obama administration's financial officials at the Comptroller of the Currency, the FDIC, or the Federal Reserve, or even the SEC, our securities commission, can be paraphrased simply as: Congress passed the law, we are implementing the law, period, full stop.

That is not the right answer nor is it the right question. Standing for orthodoxy instead of what will benefit the American people, that should be their obligation, to help Congress design policies that help the American Dream flourish.

Jefferson, envisioning our nation divided into States, counties, and townships, said: "It is not by the consolidation, or concentration of powers, but by their distribution, that good . . . is effected."

Abraham Lincoln reminded our citizens that "the legitimate object of government is to do for a community of people whatever they need to have done, but cannot do at all . . ."

I place emphasis on the nature of "community of people" whereby we buy into this longstanding philosophical position of subsidiarity, whereby solutions to problems or challenges are best decided and left to the community and that, if necessary, the government closest to the people band together with families and local associations to take action, not punt every decision to the Federal Government.

At one time, such dedication to self-reliance and common sense were lauded as virtues, essential to the character of our Nation and of our people. Edmund Burke referred to the "middling" associations for doing good in England, and Alex de Tocqueville spoke reverently of Americans' insatiable

able ability to problem solve through the formation of associations of all kinds, that Americans were always finding themselves producing an association to build inns, to raise churches, to distribute books, to send missionaries out, to help create hospitals, prisons, and schools, all local communities coming together to do these things for themselves.

In my first 2 years in Congress, I have witnessed firsthand the overwhelming size of the administrative state when compared to my earlier service on Capitol Hill and in President Bush 41's White House. First let's consider the sheer volume of rules that have been issued, estimated to cost our economy \$100 million or more in net cost.

Just under President Obama, we have witnessed over 600 rulemakings that exceed \$100 million in threshold. Some, like the Clean Power Plan, many, many times that amount. In fact, the Office of Management and Budget, as of November 15, just a few days ago, noted there were 98 more midnight rules of the Obama administration; 17 of those hitting the \$100 million mark of cost to our economy.

The conservative American Action Forum has estimated that President Obama has imposed 40 percent more major rules than his predecessor and that the overall cost of the Obama administration's regulations on the American people stands at \$813 billion.

Likewise, consider the longer term. This chart illustrates the scope of these rulemakings as well as the long-term trend in publication of new rulemakings in the Federal Register, where all the government's actions are published for public dissemination and review. But still more than the sheer number and cost of these rulemakings is how intrusive they have become in daily lives or duplicative they are of another rule that was never repealed. That is why I found very appealing President-elect Trump said let's repeal rules before we make new ones. I wrote him recently, suggesting that he form a regulatory reform task force, like President Reagan did, and put Vice President Pence in charge of it to work with OMB and peel back this layer of duplicative costly regulation. These costs hurt consumers, and they hurt job creation.

A mortgage application, a fundamental part of our American experience across this Nation for a first-time home buyer used to be about 100 pages. Now it is about 500 pages. I would argue the consumer is not materially better informed or better off with these additional pages. Instead, we have just added duplicative paperwork because it looks better. But on reflection, is that consumer better off? Is our Nation better off for that cost? Shouldn't these kinds of things use common sense?

In 1994, I served on The Heritage Foundation's Advisory Council on Regulatory Reform. Twenty years ago, your old Rip Van Winkle friend here

argued that the cost in 1994 of the Federal regulatory system was nearly \$1.6 trillion annually. I compared it, then, to the personal income tax, what it raised, what we all contribute of about \$1.2 trillion in 1994 dollars.

The everyday government involvement in hardworking Americans' lives has only grown over those past two decades, and the Competitive Enterprise Institute's across-the-board cost estimate now for Federal regulations, including the impact of the Obama administration is nearly at \$1.9 trillion per year, exceeding the cost of the individual income tax system and corporate tax revenues and quickly approaching—are you seated?—quickly approaching the entire amount of corporate pretax profits.

The regulatory regime of the Federal Government is not just vast and costly, it is unnecessarily intrusive. In Arkansas, we have seen agency regulations have devastating effects on our farmers, our small businesses, nonprofits, schools, colleges, universities, and State agencies. No one is immune from the leviathan's overreach.

Also in recent years, one has noted the expansion of the executive branch authority by increasing staff at the White House that is not subject to the confirmation of the United States Senate. While President Reagan had appointed one czar to work on drugs in the White House, President Obama has appointed 44 czars, with 35 of those not requiring confirmation by the United States Senate.

By using executive orders or executive memoranda to carry out policies that exceed existing statutory authority and properly belong to the first branch of government, the legislative branch, here, President Obama has hit new heights in what historian Arthur Schlesinger termed "the imperial Presidency."

□ 2000

It is critical to note that it is not the numbers of executive orders that are meaningful as to the directives themselves and how far-reaching they are vis-a-vis that proper statutory authority.

For example, if one utilizes data from the American Presidency Project and compares Reagan, Clinton, and Bush 43 with President Obama—all two-term Presidents—one finds President Reagan issued 381 executive orders; President Clinton, 364 executive orders; President Bush 43, 291; and President Obama at an apparently in line 260. But that is not the end of the story. President Obama has utilized a new measure that dodges publicity, transparency, and these statistics of the American Presidency Project: the Presidential memorandum.

By the end of 2015, this most imperial of Presidents had issued 219 memoranda—these are just the ones that have been published in the Federal Register—and the White House memorandum tally at the end of 2015 was 476,

for a total of more than 600 executive orders and Presidential directives.

It can certainly be argued that Obama's executive action has far exceeded the scope and breadth of previous administrations. Even The Washington Post editorial board noted that the President's executive action on immigration in 2014 had no precedent and flew in the face of congressional intent. Indeed.

The Federal courts, too, have recognized the excess of this administration with their blocking of the President's 2014 executive order on immigration, nationwide injunctions on the Department of Labor's overtime rule, injunctions on the EPA's waters of the United States rule, and finally, the current legal battle over the Clean Power Plan.

So, while I have certainly seen, in my two decades of being out of the Poto-mac arena, a growing trend in the administrative state by way of executive actions that skirt the Administrative Procedure Act and public comment, this administration has also aggressively attempted to avoid publicly vetted rulemaking by something even, in my judgment, more nefarious to our constitutional freedoms, and that is creating regulation by enforcement action.

In my first 2 years in Congress, this has happened at the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Department of Justice and clearly skirts the statutory traditions of the United States and the role of the Administrative Procedure Act.

One of the economically chilling issues related to this contains the use of settlement trust funds, whereby the Department of Justice or other agencies of government choose to settle Federal civil actions against companies or individuals through a settlement procedure, as opposed to going to trial, and then assess a major monetary penalty which, instead of being paid to the victims, is paid to politically favored interest groups.

These activists, in turn, bring more lawsuits to feather their own nests. And if this isn't crony coercion, with its pernicious effect on the economy and a chilling effect on all innovation and economic growth, I don't know what is. It is certainly not in keeping with 70, 80 years of tradition under the Administrative Procedure Act.

My former colleague and White House counsel to President Bush 41, Ambassador C. Boyden Gray, stated in his testimony, before the House Financial Services Committee, about the dangers of an executive with access to the Treasury. That is clearly what these slush funds are. The need to ensure separation of powers and power of the purse are firmly in the hands of Congress, not the executive.

Mr. Gray stated: "Every other constitutional power runs into the appropriations power," and that throughout our history, "presidents have 'consistently endeavored to seize the appropriations powers from Congress.'"

This is where you get into the intention that our Founders anticipated. Federalist 51: when one branch of government gets too big for their breeches, it needs to be countered by another branch of government. This overreach by the executive needs to be responded to by the first branch, the legislative branch, and make sure that we, in fact, consistently authorize our appropriations responsibly.

To close this discussion of the administrative state, let's consider a primary example of growth of the state where Congress does not have an opportunity to safeguard its legislative and appropriation and oversight responsibility. People's exhibit A is the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

In the Dodd-Frank Act, I mentioned a few minutes ago, in my view, the Congress mistakenly created a funding source for the CFPB not subject to the appropriations that are actually set aside. Instead, it is a fixed amount of income out of the Federal Reserve system hidden away from Congress' oversight that normally would be paid directly to the Treasury. Instead, it is diverted to the CFPB, and it gives an agency independence like you can't see anywhere else. It is a violation, in my view, of our appropriations responsibility. The Director can't be fired, so it is a violation of our oversight responsibility.

I was pleased, this October, that the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia unanimously ruled in the PHH mortgage case that the CFPB's sole Director position possesses unchecked "unilateral power" and calls the Director "the single most powerful official in the entire United States Government." I am sorry, what? The single most powerful official in the United States Government. Gosh, I thought that was the President, the Speaker of the House. No, no, no. It is a guy at the CFPB. In fact, they acted in an unconstitutional manner.

So I am with the District of Columbia court, and I have no doubt that the pending case, State National Bank of Big Spring, Texas, challenging the CFPB's unconstitutionality will be noted as well.

So, Mr. Speaker, these are some of my observations about the growth of the administrative state. I have no doubt that, when I come back to this floor, I will continue this discussion and offer solutions about what we need to do in Congress, in the legislative branch, and in the executive branch to make sure that we are upholding our obligation to our voters, our citizens, the people who have elected us, who have sent us here to represent their interests—hardworking people like RANDY NEUGEBAUER that we lauded a few minutes ago for his extraordinary service to the 19th District of Texas. Our administrative state is unmanageable, and it deserves to be reined in.

As a freshman, soon-to-be sophomore, a second-term Member of this body, I am going to fight for those

changes that return the power to the people's House and the people's Senate as it relates to oversight of the executive and the appropriations method.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

SENATE ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The Speaker announced his signature to enrolled bills of the Senate of the following titles:

S. 1555. An act to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the Filipino veterans of World War II, in recognition of the dedicated service of the veterans during World War II.

S. 2234. An act to award the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the members of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) in recognition of their superior service and major contributions during World War II.

S. 2577. An act to protect crime victims' rights, to eliminate the substantial backlog of DNA and other forensic evidence samples to improve and expand the forensic science testing capacity of Federal, State, and local crime laboratories, to increase research and development of new testing technologies, to develop new training programs regarding the collection and use of forensic evidence, to provide post-conviction testing of DNA evidence to exonerate the innocent, to support accreditation efforts of forensic science laboratories and medical examiner offices, to address training and equipment needs, to improve the performance of counsel in State capital cases, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 8 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, December 7, 2016, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

7755. A letter from the Director, Civil Rights Center, Office of the Secretary, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule — Implementation of the Nondiscrimination and Equal Opportunity Provisions of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (RIN: 1291-AA36) received December 2, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

7756. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Valuation of Benefits and Assets; Expected Retirement Age received December 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

7757. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Food and Drug Administration Review and Action on Over-the-Counter Time and Extent

Applications [Docket No.: FDA-2016-N-0543] (RIN: 0910-AH30) received December 2, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7758. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Uniform Compliance Date for Food Labeling Regulations [Docket No.: FDA-2000-N-0011] received December 2, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7759. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Medical Gas Containers and Closures; Current Good Manufacturing Practice Requirements [Docket No.: FDA-2005-N-0343] (RIN: 0910-AC53) received December 2, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7760. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Indirect Food Additives: Paper and Paperboard Components [Docket No.: FDA-2016-F-1153] received December 2, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7761. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Commerce, transmitting a report certifying that the export of the listed item to the People's Republic of China is not detrimental to the U.S. space launch industry, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2778 note; Public Law 105-261, Sec. 1512 (as amended by Public Law 105-277, Sec. 146); (112 Stat. 2174); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7762. A letter from the Deputy Assistant to the President and Director, Office of Administration, Executive Office of The President, transmitting transactions from the Unanticipated Needs Account for fiscal year 2016 as required by 3 U.S.C. 108, pursuant to 3 U.S.C. 108(b); Public Law 95-570, Sec. 2(a); (92 Stat. 2449); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7763. A letter from the Federal Co-Chair, Appalachian Regional Commission, transmitting the Commission's Inspector General Semiannual Report to Congress, for the period April 1, 2016 through September 30, 2016, pursuant to Sec. 5 of the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7764. A letter from the Executive Director, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting the Commission's Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2016 through 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 306(a); Public Law 111-352, Sec. 2; (124 Stat. 3866); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7765. A letter from the Chairman, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting the Commission's Fiscal Year 2016 Agency Financial Report, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3515(a)(1); Public Law 101-576, Sec. 303(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 107-289, Sec. 2(a)); (116 Stat. 2049); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7766. A letter from the Chief Executive Officer, Corporation for National and Community Service, transmitting the Office of Inspector General's Semiannual Report to Congress and the Corporation for National and Community Service's Response and Report on Final Action for the six-month period from April 1, 2016 through September 30, 2016, pursuant to Sec. 5 of the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7767. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's semi-annual report on the activities of the Inspector General for April 1, 2016, through September 30, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) Sec. 5(b); Public Law 95-452, Sec. 5(b); (92 Stat. 1103); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7768. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's semi-annual report on the activities of the Inspector General for April 1, 2016, through September 30, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) Sec. 5(b); Public Law 95-452, Sec. 5(b); (92 Stat. 1103); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7769. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's FY 2016 Agency Financial Report, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3515(a)(1); Public Law 101-576, Sec. 303(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 107-289, Sec. 2(a)); (116 Stat. 2049); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7770. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's Semiannual Report of the Office of the Inspector General for the period ending September 30, 2016, pursuant to Sec. 5 of the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, Public Law 95-452; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7771. A letter from the Administrator, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's Semiannual Management Report to the Congress for the period of April 1, 2016, through September 30, 2016, pursuant to Sec. 5 of the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7772. A letter from the Labor Member and Management Member, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting the Board's Inspector General Semiannual Report to the Congress for the period April 1, 2016 through September 30, 2016, pursuant to Sec. 5 of the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, Public Law 95-452; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7773. A letter from the Chair, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's Fiscal Year 2016 Agency Financial Report, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3515(a)(1); Public Law 101-576, Sec. 303(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 107-289, Sec. 2(a)); (116 Stat. 2049); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7774. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Office of the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Fiscal Year 2014 Report to Congress on Administration of the Tribal Self-Governance Program, pursuant to Sec. 458aaa-13(a), 25 U.S.C. 450 et seq., as amended; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7775. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu National Blue Alert Act Report to Congress for 2016, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 14165b(f); Public Law 114-12, Sec. 4(f); (129 Stat. 196); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

7776. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Special Local Regulation; Ouachita River, Monroe, LA [Docket No.: USCG-2016-0666] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received December 2, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7777. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's